

Make a scarecrow using straw or newspaper stuffed with hay. Attach the scarecrow to a post or fence and set it near a garden. Children can watch. Every day, have children to "fill up" the scarecrow with cracked corn on the cob, millet, or other birdseed on the scarecrow's head. They can also fill it with dry cereal, and use the scarecrow or hang it with peanut butter or suet "fuzzy" hair.

by stringing popcorn, toasted oat cereal, and stale doughnuts and hanging the lines on trees. Make ornaments using scooped out oranges and grapefruits, gourds, and coconuts filled with peanut butter, suet, or other bird treats.

• *Dress Up a Snow Sculpture for the Birds*

Have the kids make a snowperson or some type of animal snow sculpture. Then

sculpture. For example, on the snow person, they could hang peanut butter pine cones from its hat, stick raisins for its eyes, and peanuts on its face for its nose and mouth, and hang a necklace of doughnuts around its neck.

- **Make a Valentine for the Birds**
Trace a heart on a piece of paper and cut it out. Then place the heart on a piece of stale bread and cut around the heart. Brush on egg white and sprinkle on some birdseed. Then hang the heart from a tree.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Divide the class into four or five teams. Have each team think up a feeding experiment. Give them a homemade feeder and a list of birdseed food. Explain that each team must come up with a hypothesis and a prediction, they want to test.

Examples:
Hypothesis: Red sugar water

Prediction: More birds will feed on suet rolled in birdseed than suet mixed with

red more if they are red than if they are green, or other natural

color. Hypothesis: More birds will feed on green cracked corn than red cracked corn. (Just soak the corn in green coloring for a few minutes before putting it out.) Prediction: More birds will feed on suet with many different colors than suet with just one color.

- Most birds feed more in the morning than in the afternoon.
- Seed-eating birds prefer a wild birdseed mix of 65% sunflower seeds, 20% cracked corn, and 15% millet, compared to 100% sunflower seeds.
- More birds will feed from a green feeder than from a red feeder of the same design that contains the same type of seeds.

Tell the teams they will need to design their experiments so they can test their hypotheses. That means they must set up a system that will allow them to record their data accurately. For some experiments, they can weigh the food before they put it out on the feeder and then again at the end of each day. For other experiments, they can set up one type of feeder in three different areas or use a feeder that is divided into equal-sized compartments—each filled with a different color or type of food.

Have each team keep a data book to record the data they collect. Remind them to

write with pencils or ballpoint pens (pen ink runs when it gets wet) and date all their entries.

When the experiments are complete, have each team write up a report of their experiment and the results. Then have each team make a presentation to the groups explaining what they did, the results supported or disproved their hypothesis, and some of the reasons the results might not be accurate. Here are some questions you can ask each team:

- What were some of the problems you had in designing your experiment or collecting the data?
- What might you have done differently?
- Did the results support your hypothesis? Why?
- How might you have made your experiment more accurate? (For example, keeping an accurate record of the weather that visited the feeder, not taking the weather and other factors into account, and so on.)